

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2415

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN XPP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, XF

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: OMAN'S ADDRESS AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT

REF: (A) STATE 206706; (B) COLOMBO 3056

1. LOCAL PRESS AUGUST 22 CARRIED FULL SUMMARY AND SOME DIRECT QUOTATIONS FROM SPEECH GIVEN AT COLOMBO ON BEHALF OF SULTAN QABOOS BY SAYYID THUWAINI BIN SHIHAB. AS REPORTED, IT COVERED FOUR MAIN AREAS: OMAN'S DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS; GENERAL MIDDLE EAST SITUATION; THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL; AND REBUTTAL OF CHARGES AGAINST OMAN BY PDRY AND LIBYA.

2. COVERAGE OF FIRST TWO TOPICS WAS ROUTINE. THUWAINI SPOKE OF OMANI PROGRESS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, COMMUNICATIONS, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. HE SAID
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LEGITIMATE DEMANDS OF PALESTINIANS MUST BE MET TO AVOID

CONTINUED THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE, AND NOTED THAT EVENTS IN LEBANON CANNOT BE VIEWED IN ISOLATION FROM PALESTINE PROBLEM. HE URGED ALL WARRING FACTIONS IN LEBANON TO LAY DOWN ARMS AND WORK FOR COUNTRY'S UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE.

3. SAYYID THUWAINI'S STATEMENT ON ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL WAS PUT IN QUOTATIONS AS FOLLOWS: "OMAN AS AN INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRY ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A ZONE OF PEACE IN THE REGION BECAUSE SHE BELIEVES MATERIALIZATION OF THIS PROPOSAL WOULD STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND HELP ELIMINATE WORLD TENSION."

4. FINALLY, THUWAINI MADE LENGTHY REBUTTAL TO EARLIER SPEECH BY PRESIDENT OF SOUTH YEMEN STATING THAT HE HAD DISTORTED FACTS OF SITUATION IN SOUTH ARABIA AND OMAN COULD NOT LET THIS PASS UNCORRECTED. THUWAINI SAID PDRY INSISTS ON CONTINUING DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION, ESPECIALLY AGAINST OMAN. SAID PDRY "REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF THE CAMP OF A BIG POWER NOT ONLY AT THIS CONFERENCE BUT ALL INTERNATIONAL PLATFORMS." HE CALLED PDRY PRESIDENT'S SPEECH A GROSS VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES, WHICH IGNORED THE FACT THAT OMAN IS NOT ONLY SOVEREIGN BUT IS MEMBER OF NAM, THE UN AND THE ARAB LEAGUE. THUWAINI THEN MADE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS: (A) THE SO-CALLED POPULAR FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF OMAN IS NOTHING BUT A DESTRUCTIVE GROUP CENTERED IN SOUTH YEMEN UNDER PDRY SUPERVISION AT THE INSTANCE OF A GREAT POWER. (B) THOSE GROUPS HAVE MADE OMAN THE FIRST BRIDGEHEAD FOR CARRYING OUT THEIR PLOTTING, AND HAVE NOT CEASED DESPITE EFFORTS OF OMAN AND OTHER STATES IN REGION TO HELP PDRY RID ITSELF OF "THIS SUBORDINATION." (C) OMAN'S RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING IRAN ARE BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, MUTUAL RESPECT AND COMMON INTEREST, WHICH SIMILARLY GOVERN OMAN'S RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES. (D) OMAN RESERVES RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ENCROACHMENTS ON ITS SOVEREIGNTY SUCH AS THOSE DIRECTED FROM PDRY. ON SAME BASIS, OMAN STRONGLY REJECTS REMARKS MADE BY LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADDAFI WHICH ALSO CONSTITUTE PROVOCATIVE INTERFERENCE IN OMAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS JUST AS LIBYA IS "INTERFERING IN EGYPT AND SUDAN."

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